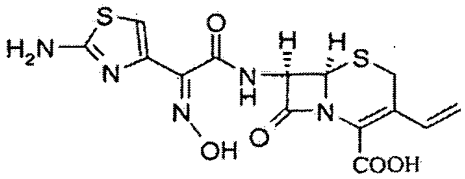
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

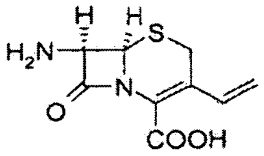
1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of cefdinir of the formula (I):



(I)

~~the said process comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

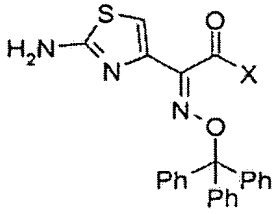
i) condensing 7-amino-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of the formula (XII):



(XII)

wherein R_1 is as defined ~~above~~ above,

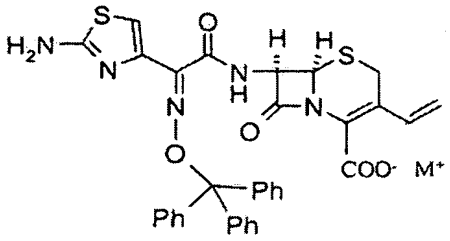
with a compound of the formula (XIII):



(XIII)

where X represents an activation group,

in the presence of a tertiary amine and ~~an organic~~ a solvent, followed by treatment with a base to produce a salt of compound formula ~~(XIV),~~ (XIV):

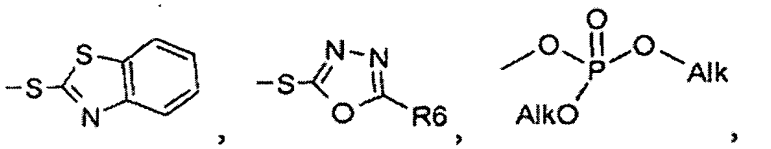


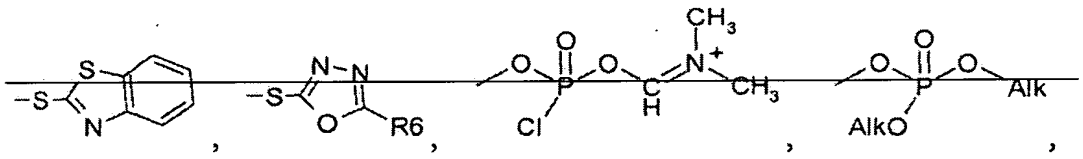
(XIV)

_____wherein M^+ is a counter ~~ion~~ ion; and

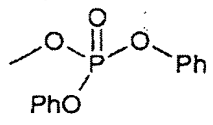
_____ii) hydrolyzing the compound of the formula (XIV) using an acid in the presence of a solvent to produce cefdinir of formula (I).

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein ~~activation group represented by~~ X is selected from the group consisting of an ester functional group, a thioester functional group, ~~halogen atom such as~~ a chlorine atom, a bromine atom,





an iodine atom, and



where R_6 represents a $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl group or a phenyl ~~group;~~ group and Alk ~~group~~ represents a $(C_1$-$C_4)$ alkyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the counter ion represented by M is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, lithium, magnesium, ammonium, ~~dicyclohexylamine~~ dicyclohexylammonium, ~~N,N'~~

~~dibenzylethylenediamine~~ N,N'-dibenzylethylenediammonium, ~~1,8-diazabicyclo(5.4.0)undec-7-ene (DBU), 1,5-diazabicyclo(4.3.0)non-5-ene, N,N'-diphenylethylenediamine~~ N,N'-diphenylethylenediammonium, ~~1,4-dizabicyclo(2.2.2)octane, N,N-diisopropylethylamine~~ N,N-diisopropylethylammonium, and ~~or N,N-diisopropylamine~~ N,N-diisopropylammonium.

4. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, N-methylpiperidine, N,N-diisopropylethylamine, and trimethylamine ~~and the like~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~organic~~ solvent used in step (i) is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, THF, cyclohexanol, acetone, butan-2-one, acetonitrile, DMAc, ~~water or a~~ water, and mixtures ~~mixture~~ thereof.

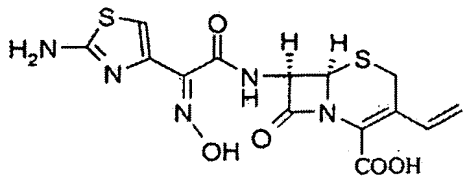
6. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the ~~organic~~ solvent used in step (ii) is selected from the group consisting of acetone, 2-butanone, methanol, isopropanol, ethanol, THF, acetonitrile, DMAc, water, and ~~the like or~~ mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of HC1, sulfuric acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and ~~or~~ aromatic/aliphatic sulfonic acids.

8. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) obtained is a syn isomer.

9. (Canceled)

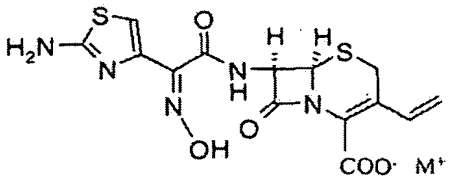
10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of a novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by ~~of the~~ formula (I): ~~as claimed in claim 9,~~



(I)

comprising:

hydrolyzing the compound represented by ~~of the~~ formula (XV):



(XV)

wherein M^+ represents a counter ion, comprising the steps of:

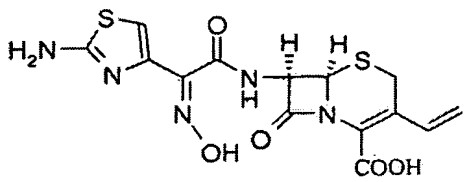
i) adding ~~an organic~~ a solvent to a compound of formula (XV),

ii) adjusting the pH of the resulting solution using an acid at a temperature in the range of 10 to 40 °C,

iii) cooling ~~cooing~~ the resulting solution rapidly to -40 to ~~0°~~ 0 °C, and

iv) isolating the novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by ~~of the~~ formula (I).

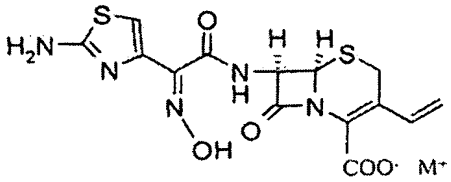
11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ process for the preparation of novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by ~~of the~~ formula (I): ~~as claimed in claim 9,~~



(I)

comprising:

hydrolyzing the compound represented by ~~of the~~ formula (XV)



(XV)

comprising the steps of:

_____i) adding ~~an organic~~ a solvent to a compound of formula (XV),

_____ii) cooling ~~cooing~~ the resulting solution to -40 to ~~0 °~~ 0 °C and

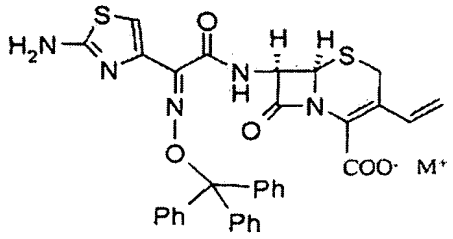
_____iii) adjusting the pH of the resulting solution by rapid addition of an acid at a temperature in the range of 10 to 40 °C, and

_____iv) isolating the novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by ~~of the~~ formula (I).

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to ~~as claimed in~~ claim 10, wherein the organic solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, 2-butanone, methanol, isopropanol, ethanol, THF, acetonitrile, DMAc, water and ~~the like or~~ mixtures thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The process ~~as claimed in claim 10~~ according to claim 10, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of HC1, sulfuric acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and ~~or~~ aromatic/aliphatic sulfonic acids.

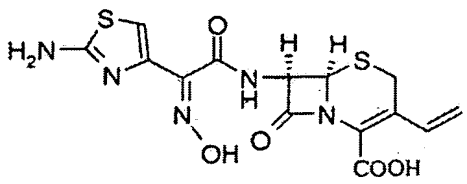
14. (Currently Amended) A compound of compound formula (XIV),



(XIV)

wherein M^+ represents a counter sodium ion or potassium ion.

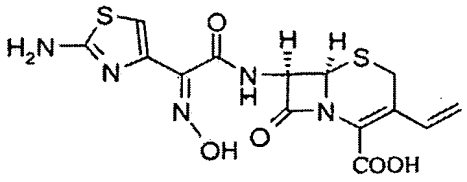
15. (New) An amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I):



(I)

obtained by the process according to claim 10.

16. (New) An amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I):



(I)

obtained by the process according to claim 11.